



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

August 6, 2004

Dear Agency Director,

As our state approaches the next budget year, we would all agree that we have a critical need to prioritize our spending and structure our operations in a way as to provide maximum efficiency to the taxpayers of South Carolina. The budget realities we're confronted with as a state provide us a rare window of opportunity to make some real changes in the way we all think about the money government spends and the services it provides. Those changes can only benefit our state, and I continue to be excited by the prospects we have in front of us.

It is for that reason that we are taking a different look at the budget this year. I greatly appreciate the work that you and your staff have done over the summer in compiling activity-based formats and hope that you have found that process to be a helpful management tool. I'm sure that our budget team will be coming back to many of you with further questions in the months ahead, and I appreciate the attention that you continue to provide them. Along the same lines, we will be holding budget hearings by goal areas in September and October (schedule enclosed), and we look forward to these further discussions with your agencies.

Enclosed please find budget planning forms for FY 2005-06 that are in the format I'd ask you to use in assessing any new funding requests for your agency and looking for ways to more efficiently meet our core responsibilities to the taxpayers. I look forward to working with you in the days and weeks to come as we continue our efforts to craft a budget that moves our state forward.

Thanks again for your hard work on behalf of the taxpayers of South Carolina. Take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford

MS/cw.jd

Enclosures